



Slough Borough Council.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

*of the*

Medical Officer of Health

G. M. HOBBIN,  
B.Com., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

For the Year 1948

*including the*

# ANNUAL REPORT

*of the*

Chief Sanitary Inspector

LESLIE A. STROUD,  
D.P.A., F.R.San.I.

*Mayor:*

ALDERMAN J. E. TAYLOR, J.P., C.C.

*Deputy Mayor:*

ALDERMAN A. E. WARD, C.C.

**Members of the Health and Sanitation Committee.**

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COUNCILLOR W. C. R. SHEARS (*Chairman*).

COUNCILLOR MRS. J. M. B. GIBSON (*Vice-Chairman*)

ALDERMAN E. W. LOBJOIT.

ALDERMAN J. E. TAYLOR, J.P., C.C. (*ex-officio*).

ALDERMAN A. E. WARD, C.C. (*ex-officio*)

ALDERMAN F. R. WHITEMAN.

COUNCILLOR F. C. BOWYER.

COUNCILLOR W. H. JENNINGS.

COUNCILLOR J. E. LEWIS.

COUNCILLOR P. LIGHTFOOT, J.P.

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. J. MORGAN.

COUNCILLOR H. OLDING.

## BOROUGH OF SLOUGH.

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ANNUAL REPORT.*of the*

## MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

for the year 1948.

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*To His Worship the Mayor, Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report of the Health Department for the year 1948.

The vital statistics which are set out in considerable detail on the ensuing pages will show that once again a satisfactory standard of health and sanitary circumstances have been maintained.

The live birth rate shows a slight decrease but is still above the national rate, while it is pleasing to note that there has correspondingly been a marked fall in the death rate of infants under one year of age and that the latter rate is well below the national.

An epidemic of Measles began in April and notifications were high throughout the summer months, falling slightly during the autumn but rising sharply again to a peak during November and December. Whooping cough notifications were approximately double the figure for 1947, and although fairly uniformly distributed throughout the year a slight increase was noted during June and July. Only 66 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified and other infectious diseases were negligible. Although both measles and whooping cough reached a high level no deaths were attributed to these diseases.

The principle causes of death as shown by the death returns were heart disease, cancer, intra-cranial vascular lesions and tuberculosis.

During the year 326 permanent new houses were completed and 561 families were re-housed. The number of applicants on the waiting list for re-housing at 1st January, 1948, was 4,840 and at 31st December the figure was 5,200. Although the waiting list figure may not present a true picture of the requirements of the community, it is a satisfactory indication that the housing shortage is still acute and must be regarded as a major problem affecting health.

The outstanding event of the year has been the coming into force of the National Health Service Act of 1946, and the consequent repeal of numerous sections of the Public Health Act of 1936. This comprehensive piece of legislation has brought about far reaching changes in Public Health administration, and the whole field of Public Health work is at present in a transitional stage.

The Sanitary Inspectors have kept a constant vigil on the quality of foods and drugs offered for sale and samples have been taken regularly for examination. Well over 300 samples of milk and ice cream have been examined at the Town Hall Laboratory and a number of samples have in addition been sent to the National Institute for Research in Dairying at Reading for special investigation. There is no doubt that the activity of the Inspectors has impressed tradesmen with the need for care in the marketing of goods for human consumption.

I am indebted to all Members of the Council for their support, and my thanks are also due to the Staff who have helped to maintain the services throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. M. HOBBIN.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## Vital Statistics.

Area .....	6,276 acres
Population .....	66,060
Number of dwelling-houses .....	17,317
Rateable value .....	£569,923
Product of a Penny Rate .....	£2,289

### Live Births.

TOTAL	1190	Male	609	Female	581
Legitimate	1118	„	574	„	544
Illegitimate	72	„	35	„	37
Birth rate per 1000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	18.0
National rate per 1000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	17.9

### Still Births.

TOTAL	28	Male	16	Female	12
Legitimate	26	„	15	„	11
Illegitimate	2	„	1	„	1
Still-Birth rate per 1000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.42
National rate per 1000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.42

### Deaths.

TOTAL	526	Male	294	Female	232
Death rate per 1000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	7.97
National rate per 1000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	10.8
Number of women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth:-					
(a) From Sepsis	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
(b) From other causes	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

Death rates from Puerperal causes per 1000 total Births (i.e. Live and Still Births) including abortion:-

(a) From Sepsis	.....	.....	—	National rate	.....	0.11
(b) From other causes	.....	.....	0.82	National rate	.....	0.91
(c) TOTAL	.....	.....	0.82	National rate	.....	1.02

Death of Infants under one year of age:-

TOTAL	37	Male	25	Female	12
Legitimate	35	„	23	„	12
Illegitimate	2	„	2	„	—
Death rate of Infants under one year of age:-					
All Infants per 1000 Live Births	.....	.....	.....	.....	31.09
National rate per 1000 Live Births	.....	.....	.....	.....	34.0
Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate Births	.....	.....	.....	.....	31.3
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate Births	.....	.....	.....	.....	27.8

## Causes of Death.

			Male	Female
	ALL CAUSES	294	232	
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	.....	0	0	
2 Cerebro-spinal fever	.....	0	1	
3 Scarlet fever	.....	0	0	
4 Whooping Cough	.....	0	0	
5 Diphtheria	.....	0	0	
6 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	.....	17	12	
7 Other forms of tuberculosis	.....	2	2	
8 Syphilitic diseases	.....	3	4	
9 Influenza	.....	1	0	
10 Measles	.....	0	0	
11 Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	.....	0	1	
12 Acute infective encephalitis	.....	1	0	
13 Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M), uterus (F)	.....	5	8	
14 Cancer of stomach and duodenum	.....	11	4	
15 Cancer of breast	.....	0	8	
16 Cancer of all other sites	.....	40	24	
17 Diabetes	.....	1	3	
18 Intra-cranial vascular lesions	.....	29	29	
19 Heart disease	.....	82	70	
20 Other diseases of circulatory system	.....	3	1	
21 Bronchitis	.....	10	5	
22 Pneumonia	.....	14	10	
23 Other respiratory diseases	.....	12	5	
24 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	.....	2	2	
25 Diarrhoea under 2 years	.....	0	0	
26 Appendicitis	.....	0	0	
27 Other digestive diseases	.....	5	3	
28 Nephritis	.....	8	5	
29 Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	.....	0	0	
30 Other maternal causes	.....	0	1	
31 Premature birth	.....	7	3	
32 Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infant diseases	.....	12	5	
33 Suicide	.....	2	3	
34 Road traffic accidents	.....	8	2	
35 Other violent causes	.....	5	8	
36 All other causes	.....	14	13	



# INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases during 1948.

TABLE I.

Showing cases notified during 1948, numbers admitted to Hospital and Deaths, also notifications for years 1936-1947

	Noti- fied Cases 1948	Cases Admit- ted to Deaths Hosp.	Population in thousands										Total cases notified during			
			61	63	60	61	62	64	65	60	53	50	1937	1938	1939	1940
			1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936		
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	66	34	44	77	113	151	120	63	80	72	60	130	100	36	—	—
Diphtheria	6	6	7	16	8	30	23	5	38	91	78	57	5	2	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	8	8	12	17	6	10	9	10	13	15	33	12	14	8	—	—
Pneumonia	20	3	27	22	28	33	34	27	26	34	23	36	33	31	—	—
Erysipelas	14	3	20	24	9	7	22	5	28	22	26	33	16	9	—	—
Ophthalmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	2	2	2	1	1	6	1	1	1	—	—
Measles	748	16	168	859	826	29	995	179	258	998	6*	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	328	11	171	280	92	146	164	36	224	64	7*	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	4	4	7	1	6	5	5	8	10	18	—	1	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	9	9	5	—	2	—	—	2	28	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(Recurrent)	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

\* Notifiable from 23rd October, 1939.

TABLE II.

Showing Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever .....	8	6	5	4	5	8	6	2	4	8	6	4
Diphtheria .....	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	—	1	—	2	1	1	—	1	—	1	1	—
Pneumonia .....	1	4	6	—	1	1	—	1	1	2	1	2
Erysipelas .....	1	—	2	—	4	—	2	1	1	1	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles .....	1	1	—	36	99	96	92	32	19	47	129	196
Whooping Cough .....	13	8	11	27	13	26	64	69	32	13	31	21
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	—	1
Tuberculosis .....	9	7	13	9	10	9	7	6	3	6	3	4
Malaria (Recurrent) .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Food poisoning .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—



TABLE III.

Showing Incidence in Wards of Borough.

	Burnham.	Central.	Chalvey.	Farnham.	Langley.	Stoke.	Upton.
Scarlet Fever	17	8	7	13	9	5	7
Diphtheria	1	2	—	—	2	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	—	—	—	—	7
Pneumonia	3	3	3	5	1	3	2
Erysipelas	1	1	2	5	2	1	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	170	143	53	172	61	107	42
Whooping Cough	50	57	25	50	37	76	33
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	1	1	3	—	1	1	2
Tuberculosis	10	13	11	26	6	12	8
Malaria (Recurrent)	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Food poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

**Comparison of Hospital Admissions  
in two  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

Ages and Sexes admitted to Hospital—

TABLE IV.

SCARLET FEVER.

Age.	Male.	Female.	Total.
0 -	—	—	—
1 -	—	1	1
2 -	—	2	2
3 -	1	3	4
4 -	4	3	7
5 -	3	9	12
10 -	5	1	6
15 -	—	—	—
20 -	—	1	1
30 & over.	—	1	1
Total 1948.	13	21	34
Total 1947.	14	20	34

TABLE V.

DIPHTHERIA.

Age.	Male.	Female.	Total.
0 -	—	—	—
1 -	—	—	—
2 -	—	—	—
3 -	—	—	—
4 -	—	—	—
5 -	2	1	3
10 -	—	2	2
15 -	—	1	1
20 -	—	—	—
30 & over.	—	—	—
Total 1948.	2	4	6
Total 1947.	3	4	7

## Diphtheria Immunisation.

On the fifth July, 1948, responsibility for the immunisation of children of all ages was transferred to the County Council as opposed to the previous arrangement by which the Borough Council undertook to immunise children of school age.

The practice of using a single injection of 0.5 c.c. of A.P.T. as a "booster" dose at school age, and two injections of 0.5 c.c. at an interval of four weeks as initial treatment was continued, and no cases of either local or general reactions have been recorded.

With regard to the immunisation of infants the most popular reagent by far has been the combined diphtheria and whooping cough vaccine, using three injections at intervals of one month. Following a complaint from a general practitioner in the area that a large number of children treated with this vaccine had severe local reactions a full investigation was carried out. As the result of a questionnaire circulated to all other doctors in the area it was found that a certain few had had a similar experience, but after consulting the manufacturers had changed their technique and had better results. It is understood also that the manufacturers have improved the vaccine, and in the light of experience gained by all concerned the number of reactions recorded in future is expected to be extremely small.

As all record cards have been transferred to the County Health Department the figures for immunisation for the first half-year only are available and are as follows:—

Number of children who completed a full course of Primary Immunisation during the 6 months ending 30th June, 1948.			Number of children re-immunised during the 6 months ending 30th June, 1948.
Age at date of Final Injection.			
Under 5.	5-14.	Total.	
381	51	432	
			295

Number of cases of Diphtheria occurring in :—

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| (a) Immunised subjects .....     | 2 |
| (b) Non-Immunised subjects ..... | 2 |

Death from Diphtheria — Nil.

## Diphtheria Anti-Toxin.

Supplies of diphtheria anti-toxin have in the past been provided by the Council and kept available at the Town Hall for general practitioners who required it, with an additional emergency supply at the Police Station.

This arrangement no longer exists and stocks are now obtainable direct from the nearest Isolation or large General Hospital.

## Insulin.

Section 177 of the Public Health Act, 1936, under which the Council previously supplied Insulin to necessitous cases has been repealed. All patients in need can now receive a free supply through the National Health Service.

## Laboratory.

During the year the following specimens were examined:—

	Postv.	Negtv.
Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli .....	4	240
Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci .....	—	56
Swabs for Vincents Angina .....	5	18
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli .....	1	55
Urine for Tubercle Bacilli .....	—	4
Pus for Gonococci (including slides)	—	10
Faeces for Coli, Typhoid .....	—	37
Faeces for Occult Blood .....	—	2
Blood for Widal .....	—	4
Urine for routine examination .....	57	
Cerebro-Spinal Fluids .....	8	
Blood Counts .....	15	
Complete Blood Counts .....	7	
Miscellaneous specimens .....	14	

	Satisfactory	Unsatis.
Milk samples—		
(a) Phosphatase Test .....	181	—
(b) Methylene Blue Test .....	206	9
(c) Coliform Test .....	62	17
Water samples—		
(a) Drinking water .....	17	3
(b) Swimming pool water .....	16	—
Ice cream samples .....	47	35

## Mortuary.

The number of post-mortems carried out during the year was 98.

TABLE VI.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE SHOWING NEW CASES AND MORTALITY.

DEATHS.

NEW CASES.

Primary Notifications.

From Death Returns.

Age Periods	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 -	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
5 -	2	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
15 -	10	16	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	5	1	—
25 -	9	10	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
35 -	10	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	2	—	—
45 -	6	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	6	1	—	—
55 -	3	4	—	—	1	1	—	—	6	3	—	—
65 up	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Total	43	33	4	6	3	2	1	—	20	14	1	1

Death rate from Tuberculosis ..... 0.54 per 1000.

## Notification Register.

Number of cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the Notification Register on 31st December, 1948:-

Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.		
M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
232	176	408	42	45	87

## Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The diagnosis of the new cases entered in the Notification Register during the year were as follows:-

	M.	F.
Abdomen .....	—	1
Bones & Joints .....	1	1
Epididymis .....	1	—
Glands .....	2	3
Meninges .....	—	1

## DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

This service previously organised by the Borough Council was transferred to the County Council on 5th July, 1948, under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

The position at the time of transfer was as follows:-

### Number of Helps—

(a) Full-time .....	Nil.
(b) Part-time .....	15.

### Number of Cases—

(a) Acute Sick .....	Nil.
(b) Chronic Sick .....	37.
(c) Maternity .....	1.



## WATER SUPPLY.

During the year one new "booster" pump was fitted at the main pumping station at Datchet, and one new borehole pump was on the site ready for installation. Numerous extensions have been made to the distribution system connecting up to new dwellings. Chlorination has been maintained at 0.25 parts per million and there has been no reason to increase the dose.

Samples of both the Datchet Supply and the Trading Estate Supply have been taken regularly for analysis.

Typical reports on recent samples are as follows:-

### (1) Datchet Source.

No. of Colonies developing on Agar per c.c. ....	Bacteriological results.		
	1 day at 20°C.	2 days at 20°C.	3 days at 20°C.
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	0	0	0
Bact. Coli .....	Absent from 100 ml.		
Cl. welchii Reaction .....	Absent from 100 ml.		

This is a very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity consistent with a wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

### (2) Trading Estate Well.

	Chemical results in parts per million.
Appearance .....	Very faint opalescence with a very few mineral particles. Becomes bright with a very slight deposit of iron oxide on keeping.
Turbidity (Silica Scale) .....	Less than 5.
Colour (Hazen) .....	Filtered: Less than 10.
Odour .....	Very faint sulphuretted hydrogen.
Reaction pH .....	7.5
Free Carbon Dioxide .....	10
Electric Conductivity at 20°C .....	570
Total Solids, dried at 180°C .....	380
Chlorine in Chlorides .....	45
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate .....	215
Hardness .....	Total 70. Carbonate (Temporary) 70. Non-Carbonate (Permanent) 0.
Nitrogen in Nitrates .....	0.0
Nitrogen in Nitrites .....	Less than 0.01
Free Ammonia .....	0.19
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C .....	0.20
Albuminoid Ammonia .....	0.000
Residual Chlorine .....	—
Metals .....	Iron: 0.21; other metals absent.



## Bacteriological results.

No. of Colonies developing on Agar per c.c.	1 day at 20°C.	2 days at 20°C.	3 days at 20°C.
	0	0	0
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Absent from 100 ml.		
Bact. Coli	Absent from 100 ml.		
Cl. welchii Reaction	Absent from 100 ml.		

This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a trace of iron. The water is soft in character, contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution and is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

These results are normal, consistent with a pure and wholesome water and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

### SWIMMING POOLS.

A careful check has been kept on the purity of water at the Baylis House and Social Centre swimming pools, where filtration and chlorination plants are installed. Samples are examined at regular intervals and are constantly found to be satisfactory.

The most recent bacteriological report obtained is as follows:-

	Baylis House.	Social Centre.
Presumptive Coli Test	Absent in 1 : 50 c.cs. Absent in 1 : 10 c.cs. out of 5 Absent in 5 : 1 c.c. out of 5	Absent in 1 : 50 c.cs. Absent in 1 : 10 c.cs. out of 5 Absent in 5 : 1 c.c. out of 5
Coliform Count	0 per 100 c.cs.	0 per 100 c.cs.

The above samples of water are bright and clear in appearance and of a high degree of bacterial purity.

### FOOD POISONING.

Total No. of outbreaks.	No. of Cases	No. of Deaths.	Organisms or other agents responsible, with number of outbreaks each.	Foods involved with number of outbreaks of each.
1	20 approx.	—	Probably due to Zinc poisoning—1.	Stewed plums and apples.

One outbreak was recorded during the year, at the Girls' High School on 24th September, 1948. About 20 children and several of the staff had become suddenly ill after consuming lunch at mid-day, which had been supplied in containers by the School Meals Service at Station Road, Cippenham. The first course comprised meat, potatoes, cabbage and gravy, and the second course consisted of plum and apple with cremola or semolina. It was the second course which appeared to cause almost immediate vomiting, and on tasting a bitter and burning sensation was complained of.

Samples of all the foods were taken at the School canteen, some having to be recovered from the waste food bins and fairly clean samples were obtained. A portion of plum and apple with semolina or cremola was retained on a plate as served and this was sent with the other samples for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory and the Public Analyst. Further enquiries at the School Meals Service Depot revealed the fact that the plums in question were fresh plums and mixed with windfall apples. The total meals served that day was 1,524 and each meal consisted of the same menu as already stated. There did not appear to be any illness among the staff of the Depot, and it was observed that strict cleanliness was maintained although better storage facilities might be obtained. It was ascertained that the plums and apples were cooked in steam jacketed pans and immediately placed in common galvanised baths which, on inspection later, showed that a large amount of the galvanised surface had been removed exposing the surface of the sheet metal of the baths, which were quite new and recently issued to this Depot. Four baths of this type were used for this purpose. The possibility of the action of the acid in the fruit on the metal appeared to be a most likely cause of metallic poisoning. The meals were all packed by the same three helpers whose names were obtained and none gave any history of recent illness. The number of schools served with this same meal numbered 15, most of which surround the Slough Borough area. The Girls' High School received 200 meals from this School Meals Service all in approved containers, but in addition there were several other meals served which had been prepared in their own kitchen. The only persons who were taken ill were those who had partaken of the School Meals Service meal and this was established by the fact that separate tables are used for this purpose and kept strictly separate.. Apparently the first course was eaten without complaint, but the plums and apples with cremola was promptly complained of as tasting bitter with a burning sensation in the throat and appeared to be the source of the trouble.

Further enquiries revealed that the meal was served from two points in the High School, and in each part there were at least a dozen who vomited almost immediately and there were several others who felt sick. The only Assistant who partook of this meal was also ill. Apparently only one other person who had this meal at a school in Wraysbury suffered from diarrhoea the following day. It was later established that the plum and

apple was cooked the previous day about 2.30 p.m. and was placed hot into the metal galvanised baths, where it remained until approximately 7.30—8 a.m. the following morning and it was in the containers about five hours before serving.

The report of the Public Health Laboratory Service was as follows:-

Meat.	}	Organisms of the enteric, dysentery and food-poisoning groups <b>not</b> isolated.
Potato.		
Cabbage.		
Semolina.		
Plums and semolina.	}	No <b>Staph. aureus</b> isolated.

and the report of the Public Analyst contained the following comments:-

"I can find no evidence in the very small samples at my disposal of the presence of anything deleterious. From the symptoms and rapidity of the attack, it would point to poisoning by zinc and this contention is somewhat substantiated by the appearance of the galvanised tray on which the plums had been allowed to stand. Acid fruits should never be allowed to come in contact with metallic surfaces and whilst in this case no zinc was found in the sample, it might well be that action on the zinc tray was the cause of the trouble. The portion I have examined may have been at the top and not have come in contact with the metal, but from my past experience, cooked fruits when allowed to stand on a galvanised tray have rapidly caused vomiting and diarrhoea after consumption."

The conclusion was that the outbreak was probably due to Zinc Poisoning caused by allowing cooked fruits to stand in galvanised containers.

## AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Responsibility for the provision of an Ambulance Service is now vested in the County Council, who continue to use the service of St. John's Ambulance Brigade, Burlington Road, Slough.

**CLINICS and TREATMENT CENTRES.**

**Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics** are conducted as follows:-

Centre.	Location.	Sessions.	Sessions when Medical Officer in attendance.
Cippenham.	Central Hall, Bower Way.	Weekly Friday, 2 p.m.  Diphtheria Immunisation.	Weekly Friday.  1st Thursday, 10.30 a.m.
Langley.	Women's Institute Hall.	2nd and 4th Friday, 2 p.m.  Diphtheria Immunisation.	4th Friday.  3rd Tuesday, 11 a.m.
Slough Health Centre.	Burlington Road	Weekly Monday and Thursday. 2 p.m. Diphtheria Immunisation.	Weekly Monday. 1st Thursday.  Weekly Thursday, 9.30 a.m.
St. Michael's.	Slough Social Centre, Farnham Road.	Weekly Monday, 2 p.m.  Diphtheria Immunisation.	Weekly Monday.  1st Monday, 2 p.m.
Wexham Road.	Wexham Road Community Centre.	Weekly Friday, 2 p.m.  Diphtheria Immunisation.	Weekly Friday.  2nd Friday, 2 p.m.

**Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics** are run in connection with the Hospital Out-Patients services. The location and times are as follows:-

Location.	Ante-Natal Clinic.	Post-Natal Clinic.
Upton Hospital.	Wednesday, 1.30 p.m.	Monday, 10.30 a.m.
Slough Social Centre. (Conducted by Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hosp.).	Tuesday, 10 a.m. Friday, 10 a.m. (1st bookings.)	Friday, 11.30 a.m.



## **SCHOOL CLINICS.**

These clinics are part of the School Medical Services, whereby treatment is available free of charge to all children of school age and also children attending Nursery Schools. All clinics are held at the Burlington Road Health Centre. A session is conducted every morning for Minor Ailments, while Dental and Ophthalmic treatment is arranged by appointment. In addition there is a Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic every Thursday morning.

## **TUBERCULOSIS.**

The Chest Clinic is situated in the Upton Hospital, Albert Street, and all arrangements are under the control of the Chest Physician.

## **VENEREAL DISEASES.**

The nearest treatment centres are located as follows:-  
King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor.  
Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading.  
Hillingdon Hospital.

## **DAY AND SHORT-STAY NURSERIES.**

The following Nurseries within the Borough are administered by the County Council.

- (a) Day Nurseries for 0 - 3 years.
  - (i) Baylis Court, Oatlands Drive, Slough.
  - (ii) Manor Park, Penn Road, Slough.
- (b) Short-Stay Residential Nursery, "Brookside," Salt Hill, Slough.

Applications direct to the Matron.

## **HOSPITAL SERVICES.**

The population is served by the following Hospitals and Maternity Homes, which are situated mainly outside the Borough:-

### **General Hospitals.**

Upton Hospital, Albert Street, Slough.  
King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor.  
Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital, Taplow.  
Old Windsor Hospital, Old Windsor.

### **Infectious Diseases Hospital.**

Maidenhead Isolation Hospital.

### **Sanatorium.**

All admissions arranged by the Chest Physician, The Chest Clinic, Upton Hospital, Slough.

### **Smallpox Hospitals.**

All arrangements for domiciliary consultations and admissions to special Hospitals made, when the occasion arises, by the Regional Hospital Board. Application direct to Bed Bureau.

### **Part III Accommodation (Old People—Non-Sick.)**

Upton Hospital, Slough, with annexe at Upton Towers.

#### **Maternity.**

Upton Hospital, Slough.

Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital, Taplow.

Colinswood Nursing Home, Farnham Common.

Reservations of maternity beds by County Medical Officer.

#### **Registered Nursing Homes.**

There are two private Registered Nursing Homes in the Borough for the admission of the aged and infirm.

These are:-

Heathfield Nursing Home, 10, Uxbridge Road, Slough.

Parkside Nursing Home, Upton Court Road, Slough.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Section A—General Administration.

Section B—Housing.

Section C—Supervision of Food Supplies.

Section D—Factories, Workplaces, Shops, etc.

Section E—General Sanitation.

Section F—Miscellaneous.

### SECTION A.

#### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Table No. 1.

##### Summary.

Total Inspections .....	15,654
Complaints Received and Investigated .....	1,152
Preliminary Notices Served .....	475
Secondary Notices Served .....	128
Statutory Notices Served .....	73
Letters Received .....	6,120
Letters Dispatched .....	2,017
Interviews with Property Owners, Agents and Builders .....	1,621

Table No. 2.

##### Analysis of Inspection Work Performed by the District Sanitary Inspectors.

Housing .....	3,308
Inspection of Meat and other Foods .....	778
Premises at which Food is Prepared, Stored and Sold .....	2,526
Cowsheds and Dairies .....	248
Factories and Workplaces .....	525
Shops .....	344
General Sanitation .....	4,954
Rodent Infestation Control .....	700
Building Licensing .....	2,057
Miscellaneous .....	224

Table No. 3.

##### Premises at which Improvements were Effected.

Dwelling-houses (rendered habitable) .....	472
Premises used for Preparation and Sale of Food .....	55
Dairies .....	5
Factories and Workplaces .....	25
Shops .....	12
Drainage (Reconstruction, Repair, etc.) .....	525
Offensive Trades .....	1
Portable Dustbins Provided .....	99



## SECTION B. HOUSING.

**Demolition and Closing of Unfit Houses** (Proceedings under Section 11 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.)

Only under special circumstances were certain unfit houses dealt with under the above procedure these being cases in which the buildings had become dangerous or were otherwise completely unfit for human habitation.

(a) **Demolition Orders** (Section 11)—Nos. 3 and 4 Selwood Cottages, Chalvey Grove.

(b) **Closing Orders** (Section 12)—Lower Ground Floor Flat, 25, Upton Park.

### **Repair of Unfit Houses.**

During the year, 875 dwelling-houses were surveyed and 1,656 re-inspections were made rendering 472 houses fit for human habitation under the provisions of the Public Health and Housing Acts. As in recent years only urgent repairs were required to dilapidated houses which normally would have been dealt with by Clearance or Demolition Order procedure.

The Department received 304 complaints of defective structural and insanitary conditions of dwelling-houses.

Generally, there have been no special difficulties encountered in securing the prompt execution of repair work in spite of the shortage of building labour and materials.

### **Repairs to Property in Owner's Default.**

It was not found necessary for the Department to institute summary proceedings or execute any work owing to the failure of property owners or agents to comply with statutory notices.

### **Overcrowding.**

Although the high degree of overcrowding of dwelling-houses known to exist within the Borough demanded much attention, with the acute housing shortage it was only possible to relieve the more serious cases.

During the year 180 investigations relative to overcrowding were made, but it is impossible to ascertain the actual extent of overcrowding without a special survey being undertaken for that purpose.

There were no applications for licences to permit temporary overcrowding.

Many houses were surveyed to enable owners to be advised as to "permitted numbers", and rent books examined to ascertain that the prescribed statutory particulars had been inscribed.

### **Allocation of Council Houses.**

Requests for support of applications for Council houses were dealt with during the year involving investigations by the District Sanitary Inspectors at 116 dwelling-houses. Several enquiries from other Local Authorities as to the housing conditions of applicants who were residing in this Borough and had applied for accommodation in those districts were also dealt with.

### **Rent Restrictions Certificates.**

One application was received under the Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions Acts, 1920 - 1939 for a certificate as to the state of repair of a dwelling-house and a certificate was issued.

### **Information re Land Charges.**

Requests for information were received and dealt with in respect of 1,137 properties.

### **Verminous Disinfestation of Dwelling-Houses.**

As the result of 63 complaints and routine inspection work 301 houses were examined for verminous infestation and resulted in disinfestation treatment being carried out at 91 houses, including 32 Council Houses.

Examination was also made of 133 Council Houses, the occupants of which had been approved by the Housing Committee for transfer to other Council Houses.

## **SECTION C.**

### **SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.**

#### **Milk and Dairies.**

There are 22 persons registered by the Corporation as wholesale purveyors and producers of milk and 16 persons as retail purveyors. One milk producer recommenced production during the year.

Seventeen licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936 - 1946 viz:-

Pasteuriser's licence (H.T.S.T. process)	.....	1
Pasteuriser's licence (Holder process)	.....	1
Tuberculin-Tested bottling licences	.....	2
Tuberculin-Tested dealer's licences	.....	8
Pasteurised dealer's licences	.....	1
Supplementary licences	.....	4

#### **Bacteriological Examination of Milk.**

Close attention was again given to the bacteriological quality of milk produced, treated and sold within the Borough and 239 samples of milk were procured by the District Sanitary Inspectors for examination at the Town Hall Laboratory. Of these samples 9.6% were found to be unsatisfactory as compared with 9.9% in 1947, and of designated milks 8.4% were unsatisfactory as compared with 3.8% in 1947. In the case of each unsatisfactory sample investigation and following-up procedure was adopted. The results are summarized by the following table:-

**Table No. 4.**

Samples Procured.	Results.
67 - Pasteurised milk	65 complied with prescribed conditions.
37 - Tuberculin-tested (Pasteurised) milk	35 " " " "
1 - Tuberculin-tested (Certified) milk	1 " " " "
12 - Tuberculin-tested milk	9 " " " "
3 - Accredited milk	3 " " " "
78 - Heat-treated milk	67 were satisfactory.
41 - Non-designated milk	39 " "

### **Heat Treatment of Milk.**

The Borough is not an area specified under Defence Regulation 55G relating to the restriction on the sale of raw milk, but at the request of the Ministry of Food samples are regularly procured from three approved heat-treatment plants. During 1948, 98 samples were procured for examination of which 12 were unsatisfactory.

### **Biological Testing of Milk.**

Eighteen samples of milk were submitted to the National Institute for Research in Dairying at Reading for biological testing for the presence of tubercle bacilli. Adverse reports were received upon 2 samples which gave positive results and the matter was referred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who eliminated tuberculous cows from the respective herds.

### **Manufacture and Sale of Ice-cream.**

Fifteen premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture and 80 premises for the storage and retail sale of ice-cream. Much consideration was given to the hygienic condition of registered premises and the administration of the Ice-cream Heat Treatment Regulations 1947 and 1948, 224 inspections being made and improvements effected at 10 premises.

Eighty-two samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination by the methylene blue reduction test at the Town Hall Laboratory as compared with 40 samples in 1947. As there is no statutory standard for the bacteriological purity of ice-cream the samples were classified under the following provisional categories, the general result showing an improvement on the previous year:-

Table No. 5.

Provisional Grade.	No. of Samples.
1	38
2	11
3	17
4	16

### Manufacture and Sale of Preserved Food.

Routine inspection of 53 premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of preserved food, including 17 fish fryers premises continued during the year, for which purpose 238 visits were made by the District Sanitary Inspectors and improvements were effected at 24 premises. Premises were found to be kept generally satisfactory.

### Bakehouses.

Number on Register .....	15
Inspections .....	38
Notices served in respect of contraventions .....	4

### Itinerant Vendors of Food.

Street food traders and their storage premises were kept under observation to ensure that foodstuffs sold in that manner were stored under hygienic conditions and were fit for human consumption when offered for sale. Eighty-three visits were made for that purpose.

### Food and Drugs Adulteration.

During the year 308 samples of foods and drugs were procured for analysis representing a proportion of 4.66 samples per thousand of the estimated population. Of these samples 181 were submitted to the Public Analyst and the remainder, 104 milk samples and 23 spirit samples were informally tested by the Sampling Officers. The articles sampled are summarised in Table No. 6. The Public Analyst reported adversely upon 17 samples i.e. 5.52% of the samples submitted to him.

Summary proceedings were instituted in 6 cases, warnings issued in 2 cases and 2 cases were referred to the Ministry of Food for consideration. In the remaining cases advisory work was carried out.

The average quality of the milk samples examined was Fat 3.69% and Solids-not-fat 8.57%, as compared with the minimum presumptive standard prescribed by the Sale of Milk Regulations, of Fat 3% and Solids-not-fat 8.5%.

### Preservatives and Colouring Matter in Food.

Sixty-five samples of foods were examined by the Public Analyst and 64 samples were found to be free from excessive



permitted preservatives and of prohibited preservatives and colouring matters. One informal sample of "Tomato Sauce" was found to contain undeclared benzoic acid.

### Labelling of Food.

No offences under the Labelling of Food (No. 2) Order 1944 were detected.

### Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941.

No offences were detected.

### Merchandise Marks Acts.

No action was found necessary.

Table No. 6.

#### Summary of Food and Drugs Samples Submitted to the Public Analyst.

	Samples Procured.		Samples Adulterated.	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
<b>FOODS :</b>				
Arrowroot .....	2			
Baking Powder .....	9			
Beverage—Orange Flavour in Powder Form .....	1			
Butter .....	14			
Clearmint Chewing Plugs .....	1		1	
Cocoa .....	1			
Coffee .....	3			
Coffee and Chicory Essence .....	1			
Coffee—French .....	1		1	
Cinnamon, Stone Milled .....	1			
Cordial, Blackcurrant .....	1			
Cordial, Ginger, Non-Alcoholic .....	1			
Cordial, Lime Juice .....	1			
Curry Powder Madras .....	1			
Custard Powder (Vanilla Flavour) .....	1			
Crystals (lemonade) .....	2			
Dates, Finest Paste .....	1			
Drinking Powder effervescing .....	1			
Eggs—Pure Dried Whole .....		2		
Foodstuffs (Misc.) .....		4		
Gravy Powder .....	3			
Gelatine Edible .....	2			
Ginger Beer .....	1			
Ginger Crystallised .....	1			
Ginger Ground .....	5			
Jam Gooseberry F.F.S. .....	1			
Jelly Crystals .....	1			
Lemon and Barley .....	1			
Lemon Squash .....	2			
Lemon Wonder .....	1			
Margarine .....	3			
Milk Chocolate .....		1		
Milk .....	14	1	8	
Milk "Appeal to the Cow" .....	13			
Orangeade .....	1			
Orange Squash .....	1			

Table No. 6—continued.

## Summary of Food and Drugs Samples submitted to the Public Analyst.

	Samples Procured.		Samples Adulterated.	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
<b>FOODS—continued.</b>				
Pepper	2			
Pepper, White	12			
Powder—Golden Raising	2			
Sausages, Beef	3		1	
Sausages, Chipolata Beef	1			
Sausages, Pork	2			
Sausage Meat, Beef	3		1	
Sausage Meat, Pork		1		
Saccharin Tablets	2			
Salad Oil (Teaseed Oil)	1			
Sauce	2			
Sauce, Tomato	2			
Sponge Mixture—Cocoanut flavour	1			1
Spices, Mixed	1			
Sugar, Castor	2			
Suet, Shredded Beef	1			
Synthetic Essence Almond flavour	1			
Tablets, Sweetening	1			
Tea	1			
Toffee—Butter Kisk	1		1	
Toffee Crunch	1		1	
Tomato Double Concentrated Paste		1		
Vinegar, Malt	10			
Vinegar, Non-brewed	3			
Wine—Ginger Non-Alcoholic	1			
<b>WINES AND SPIRITS :</b>				
Sherry	1			
Gin	3			
Rum	1			
Whisky	5		2	
<b>DRUGS :</b>				
Balsam of Aniseed Compound	1			
Boracic Powder B.P.	2			
Cascara Sagrada Tablets	1			
Camphorated Oil	1			
Cod Liver Oil	1			
Fruit Salts	1			
Glycerine and Borax	1			
Halibut Oil Capsules	1			
Olive Oil	1			
Paraffin, Liquid	1			
Parrish's Chemical Food and Compound	1			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>

In addition to the above samples, 18 formal and 86 informal samples of milk and 23 informal samples of spirits were tested by the Sampling Officers; 18 milk samples were found to be sub-standard.

Table No. 7.

## Foodstuffs examined for Preservatives and Colouring Matters.

Blackcurrant cordial	1
Butter	14
Coffee and Chicory Essence	1
Foodstuffs	4
Gelatine	2
Ginger Wine, Non-Alcoholic	1
Ginger Cordial Non-Alcoholic	1
Gooseberry Jam	1
Jelly Crystals	1
Lime-Juice Cordial	1
Lemon Squash	1
Lemon Wonder	1
Lemon and Barley	1
Milk	15
Margarine	3
Orange Squash	1
Orangeade	1
Sausages, Beef	3
Sausages, Chipolata	1
Sausages, Pork	2
Sausage Meat, Beef	2
Sausage Meat, Pork	1
Sherry	1
Sauce	2
Tomato Sauce	2
Tomato Paste	1
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>65</b>

Table No. 8.

## Food and Drugs Samples Reported not to be Genuine.

Sample No.	Food	Adulteration	Action taken
11 (formal)	Whisky	2.5% added water	Summary proceedings instituted. Vendor fined £5 with 1½ gns. costs.
13 (formal)	Whisky	7.7% added water	Summary proceedings instituted. Vendor fined £5 with £1 13s. costs.



Table No. 8—continued.

Food and Drugs Samples Reported not to be Genuine.			
Sample No.	Food	Adulteration	Action taken
84 (formal)	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat. No added water.	Producer notified of the deficiencies.
85 (formal)	Milk		
87 (formal)	Milk		
120 (formal)	Toffee Crunch	False description. Contained no toffee.	Summary proceedings instituted. Vendor fined £5 with 1 guinea costs.
167 (formal)	Milk	Deficient in fat 30%.	Summary proceedings instituted. Producer convicted and fined £10 with £6 9s. costs.
199 (formal)	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat. No added water.	"Appeal to the Cow" samples taken for comparison.
200 (formal)			
201 (formal)			
202 (formal)			
211 (formal)	Clearmint Chewing Plugs	Coloured and flavoured Paraffin Wax.	Referred to Ministry of Food, Liaison Division (Food Standards & Food Hygiene) for consideration.
218 (formal)	Beef Sausage Meat	33% deficient in meat.	Summary proceedings instituted. Vendor and employee each fined £5 and employee 1 gn. costs.
228 (formal)	Beef Sausages	28% deficient in meat.	Summary proceedings instituted. Vendors fined £10 with 1 guinea costs.
233 (informal)	Tomato Sauce	Not tomato sauce also contained undeclared benzoic acid.	Formal sample unobtainable. Referred to Ministry of Food, Liaison Division (Food Standards & Food Hygiene) for consideration.
243 (formal)	Butter toffee Kisk	False description contained no toffee.	Sample obtained from an itinerant vendor who gave a fictitious name and address. Efforts to trace him were unsuccessful.
299 (formal)	French coffee.	Deficient in coffee to the extent of at least 11.7%.	Vendor cautioned.

## Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Eleven slaughtermen's licences were granted during the year. The provisions of the Act have been well observed.

### Meat and Food Inspection.

In reviewing the work carried out in the supervision of the Borough food supplies, I would express appreciation of the co-operation of the officials of the Ministry of Food and of food traders generally with the Department.

During the year there were 8939 animals slaughtered at the Cippenham Court Farm Slaughterhouse within the Borough which is requisitioned by the Ministry of Food for that purpose.

I again place on record 100% inspection of the carcasses and organs of animals slaughtered for food, for which purposes 575 visits were made; 28 tons of meat were condemned as unfit for human consumption (Details are given in Tables 9 and 10.)

The inspection of foods other than meat at foodshops, warehouses and factories resulted in the condemnation of some 16 tons of foodstuffs as unfit for human consumption.

The inspection of meat and other food is carried out by the District Sanitary Inspectors all of whom hold additional qualifications in that subject.

**Table No. 9.**

#### CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle Ex. Cows	Cows	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Calves
No. of animals slaughtered and inspected .....	1932	595	4691	414	1307
<b>Disease except tuberculosis.</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned .....	9	8	10	28	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	696	140	80	33	6
% of No. inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis .....	30.6 %	24 %	1.9 %	15.9 %	1.1 %
<b>Tuberculosis.</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned .....	22	49	—	6	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	241	208	—	15	4
% of No. inspected affected with tuber- culosis .....	13.6 %	43 %	—	5.1 %	15 %

Table No. 10.

WEIGHTS OF CONDEMNED MEAT.						
	Tuberculosis.			Other Diseases		
	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Carcases and parts of carcases        *****        *****	201	2	12	95	1	9
Organs        *****        *****        *****	149	2	13	125	1	2
TOTALS:-	351	0	25	220	2	11
TOTAL WEIGHT:- 28 tons, 11 cwts., 3 qrs., 8 lbs.						

Table No. 11.

WEIGHTS OF CANNED AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.					
Canned Food	Preserves	Fish lbs.	Bacon	Imported Meat	Vegetables
5559	1362	3766	43	965	—
Fruit	Cereals	Eggs	Cheese	Misc.	
12	1138	308	180	22298	
TOTAL WEIGHT:- 15 tons, 18 cwt., 15 lbs.					

**SECTION D.**  
**FACTORIES, WORKPLACES, SHOPS, ETC.**

**Table No. 12.**  
**Inspection of Factories.**

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority .....	64	114	5	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	503	423	Nil	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) .....	—	—	—	—

**Table No. 13.**  
**Improvements Effected at Factories.**

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Fnd. (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	—	2	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	2	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	—	1	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	2	2	1	1	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	11	15	—	2	—
(c) not separable for sexes	9	5	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	2	—	—
TOTAL:-	25	26	4	5	Nil

## Outworkers.

Lists received in February and August from employers returned 94 homeworkers, whose premises were all examined. Seventeen lists of addresses of outworkers were sent to other local authorities and eight lists were received from various authorities.

## Shops Acts 1912 - 1938.

Inspections re Sanitary Conditions .....	136
„ „ Hours of Closing .....	144
„ „ Sunday Trading .....	12
„ „ Employment of Young Persons .....	52

## Improvements Effected at Shops.

Provision of additional sanitary accommodation .....	2
Provision of washing facilities .....	4
Lighting or heating improved .....	nil
Contraventions re hours of closing remedied .....	4
„ „ employment of Young Persons	
remedied .....	1

## Places of Entertainment.

Ten inspections were made during the year.

# SECTION E.

## GENERAL SANITATION.

### House Drainage and Sanitation.

During the year 149 complaints were received of defective drains and sanitary fittings and 881 visits were made in supervising the reconstruction and repair of the drainage systems of dwelling-houses and other buildings.

At 50 premises the drains were found to require reconstruction and at 173 premises other sanitary improvements were effected. In supervising this work 52 hydraulic and smoke tests were applied. Action was also taken in respect of 173 obstructed drains.

Four cesspools were abolished and the premises connected to the public sewer.



## **Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement.**

Although the extent of obvious nuisance arising from the emission of smoke and grit within the Borough is not extensive careful observation has been maintained upon this form of atmospheric pollution. Only 12 complaints of smoke or grit nuisances were received, but many observations of factory chimney emissions were made resulting in the detection of nuisances which were followed by interviews with works engineers and investigations of plant and fuel for the purpose of advising as to remedies. So often, however, the quality of solid fuels available to industry were found to be far from suitable for the prevention of atmospheric pollution.

Nuisance arising from a furnace at a timber works used for the disposal of waste wood and sawdust was abated by the installation of new plant. A grit nuisance from the steam raising plant of a laundry affecting the principle shopping centre of the Borough was still being dealt with at the close of the year. In the case of a factory chimney emitting grit in 1947 and in which the assistance of the Ministries of Health and of Fuel and Power was obtained, the supply of an improved grade of fuel has since been maintained and no further nuisance experienced. Electrical smoke detection apparatus has since been installed and the conclusion is considered to be most satisfactory. No formal action was found to be necessary during the year.

The Borough Council has been a constituent member of the National Smoke Abatement Society for some few years, during which time your Chief Sanitary Inspector has served as a Member of the Society's Executive Council.

During 1948 two of the District Sanitary Inspectors were successful in passing the examination of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Smoke Inspectors, making a total of four Officers holding that qualification.

## **Offensive Trades.**

Only two offensive trades operate under annual consent of the Borough Council namely a soap boiler and a rag and bone dealer. Nineteen visits of inspection were made and conditions were found to be generally satisfactory.

## **Moveable Dwellings.**

Only one camping site to accommodate five moveable dwellings was licensed by the Borough Council but 3 new applications and 12 applications for the renewal of licences for the stationing of individual dwellings within the Borough were granted for a period of twelve months. Three applications for individual dwellings were refused. Three-hundred and thirty-four visits of inspection were made.



Liaison has been established between this Department and the Town Planning Authority in the consideration of all applications for licences.

I am pleased to report that the unsatisfactory conditions arising from the illicit camping by gypsies in the vicinity of Chequers Bridge, Langley, ceased early in the year when the police assisted in dispersing the campers.

Summary proceedings were not found necessary during the year.

### Water Sampling.

Twenty-three samples of water were procured for examination and 132 visits made in connection with water samples—viz.:-

Domestic water supplies	.....	.....	.....	2
Swimming bath waters	.....	.....	.....	16
Dairy water supply, etc.	.....	.....	.....	21

(These figures exclude routine analysis of Public Supplies.)

## SECTION F.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

#### Rodent Infestation Control.

Control of rodent infestation continued to make good progress and during the year, 202 notifications of infestation were received and 700 investigations were made by the Officers of the Department in addition to the work of the three rodent operators which is summarised in Table No. 14 (below).

A further survey and treatment of sewers was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Infestation Control Division revealing only a slight degree of infestation.

Advantage was again taken of the Ministry Scheme of financial assistance by a grant of 50% of approved expenditure subject to compliance with certain prescribed conditions relating to the efficient organisation of the Departmental Infestation Control Service.

I would express appreciation of the excellent co-operation of the officers of the Infestation Control Division who express satisfaction with the Corporation Rodent Control Service.

Early in the year, the Corporation decided to carry out rodent infestation control at private dwelling-houses free of charge and in practice this has proved to be of considerable advantage.

Table No. 14.  
Rodent Infestation Control.  
(Rodent Operators.)

	Private Dwellings	Other Premises	Sewer Treatment (Manholes)	Refuse Destructor and Dumps	Hedges, Ditches, Parks, etc.	Other Corporation Property	TOTALS
1. Premises at which investigation was made .. .. .	462	261	367	—	85	13	1188
2. Premises at which rodent infestation was found .. .. .	386	182	51	—	61	4	684
3. Premises treated by the Corporation .. .. .	345	205	51	—	61	4	666
4. Poison baits laid .. .. .	1090	1915	51	72	61	193	3462
5. Poison baits taken .. .. .	645	808	44	46	40	152	1735

Total Estimated Kill:- 8,925 Rats.

## Building Licensing.

The following work was carried out under the control of the Chief Sanitary Inspector who is appointed Licensing Officer for building work other than new houses. Since July 1st, 1948, when the limit of expenditure in respect of work not requiring licences was reviewed, all building licence applications dealt with by the Department are in respect of Housing work.

1.	Number of applications for Building Licences received and investigated .....	929
2.	Number of applications for Building Licences which were granted .....	860
3.	Number of applications refused .....	34
4.	Number of applications referred to the Ministry of Works .....	35
5.	Total number of visits made for the purpose of investigation .....	1555
6.	Interviews with Owners and Builders .....	502

## Petroleum (Regulations) Acts, 1928-1936, and Petroleum (Carbide of Calcium) Order, 1929.

Licences issued to store petroleum spirit .....	131
Licences issued to store carbide of calcium .....	4

## Legal Proceedings.

The summary proceedings instituted by the Department during the year were those enumerated in Table No. 8 relating to Food and Drugs adulteration.